



**Minutes of the  
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING  
January 14, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Alameda Free Library Board was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ruth Belikove, President  
Mike Hartigan, Vice President  
Karen Butter, Board Member  
Alan Mitchell, Board Member  
Gail Wetzork, Board Member

Absent: None

Staff: Jane Chisaki, Library Director  
Marsha Merrick, Recording Secretary

CONSENT CALENDAR

An asterisk indicates items so enacted or adopted on the Consent Calendar.

- A. \*Report from the Library Director Highlighting Activities for the Month of January 2009. Accepted.
- B. \*Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board Meeting of December 10, 2008. Approved.
- C. \*Library Services Report for the Month of November 2008. Accepted.
- D. \*Financial Report Reflecting FY 2008-09 Expenditures by Fund through December 2008. Accepted.
- E. \*Bills for Ratification for the Month of December 2008. Approved.

Board Member Butter had a question about the bills from Tapes Unlimited. This entity is also known as Alameda Office Supply, and is the primary furnisher of janitorial and office supplies for the City.

President Belikove asked for a motion to accept the Consent Calendar as presented. Vice President Hartigan so moved; Member Wetzork seconded the motion which carried by a 5-0 vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA (Public Comment)

Marc Lambert inquired about volunteer hours dropping off somewhat. Director Chisaki explained that these numbers ebb and flow; Literacy volunteer hours are pretty constant, but they vary at the Main.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Neighborhood Library Improvement Project (G. Wetzork)

The project team kick-off meeting will be held on January 21. Director Chisaki said that members of the Alameda Architectural group may come to this meeting to give their input. Site visits to the branches by the design team will occur on January 30.

B. Draft Art Donation Policy (R. Belikove)

The Board had reviewed the draft policy included in their packets. Vice President Hartigan had a question on disposal of donated art, and who would make the decision on where it goes. Member Butter thought perhaps a recommendation might go from the Director to the Board for consideration. Director Chisaki suggested that more detail be added to the policy before it goes over to the City Attorney's office for review and approval. There is also a question on whether the Library's art policy might become part of the City's art policy. Chisaki will talk to City staffers on this issue, but for the time being, it was requested that the Art Exhibit Committee continue to work on adding more detail to the draft policy.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Library Board Meeting Date for November 2009 (J. Chisaki)

The regular board meeting in November will fall on Veterans Day, and all City offices and locations will be closed. Director Chisaki asked if the Board would like to push the meeting forward or back a week or just "go dark" in November. The Board suggested that this decision be put off until the July meeting when new members will be on board.

B. Art Exhibit Committee (R. Belikove)

The Exhibit Calendar was included in the Board's packet detailing shows booked through 2009. Suzanne Baizerman and Jon Kerpel had submitted their letters of interest to be included on the art committee. President Belikove gave their backgrounds, indicating their experience fit in well with what the committee needed. Member Butter moved that Ms. Baizerman and Mr. Kerpel be accepted to sit on the committee; Member Mitchell seconded the motion which carried by a 5-0 vote. Some discussion was held on the Gary Bukovnik painting being offered to the Library; the Board asked Belikove to call the artist and respectfully decline the piece, at least until a firm art acceptance policy could be put in place. Member Butter recommended, and the rest of the Board concurred, that the Art Committee continue to focus on temporary exhibits and further define the policy, not look for permanent art.

C. Alameda Free Library Foundation (A. Mitchell)

The Executive Board met in December; no funds have yet been given to the Library. Director Chisaki said Mary Kenney's husband and Carole Robie's mother had both passed away recently.

D. Friends of the Alameda Free Library (M. Lambert)

Marc Lambert reported that there had been no December meeting of the Friends. Their next meeting will be on January 26, the same day as the next Foundation meeting.

E. Patron suggestions/comments (Speak-Outs) and Library Director's response.

A patron had written that the space where you order in the Café had been blocked. Sometimes people move the furniture around, but the volunteers do their best to keep it orderly. A patron wrote that other libraries have book bags; the good news – the Friends sell their book bags in the Café. There were multiple criticisms by one patron about the Library's technology.

LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications from the Board.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director Chisaki reported that the balance of Measure O funds stands at \$2,651,906. \$2.1 million is for branch construction, \$300,000 is for the design phase, and \$67,600 is for the Public Works Department as designated in the MOU. \$184,306 is reserved to finish off LEED certification and to complete the book drop cover at the Main. Our LEED fees paid have been verified and Chisaki anticipates silver certification by the spring. There will be a special City Budget Workshop held at the Library on Saturday, February 7, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., where a new break-out strategy will be discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

President Belikove asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. Member Mitchell so moved; Member Butter seconded the motion which carried by a 5-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Jane Chisaki, Library Director and  
Secretary to the Library Board